

February 1, 2010

Kentucky Public Service Commission  
PO Box 615  
211 Sower Blvd.  
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

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PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

Attn: Mr. David L. Armstrong, Chairman

Re: Recent Request by LG&E (E-On) for Rate Hikes for Electrical Service

Dear Chairman Armstrong:

Recently, Louisville Gas and Electric petitioned the Public Service Commission to initiate a rate hike on its electric and gas service.

I urge the Commission to oppose any rate hikes *at this time*. As you are aware, Kentucky is in the midst of a recession, which has been the worst for many years. Unemployment is almost 11% and some fear could go much higher. I am also one of those on unemployment and find it difficult to pay my utility bills even with receiving unemployment benefits.

Those people on fixed incomes are being squeezed at every corner with little help from our federal or state government. In fact, we owe much of this economic debacle on both the Bush and Obama administrations and the collection of greed called Congress. Not to mention, Mr. Chairman, we could well experience hyper inflation due to the Obama Administration's reckless spending of money that does not exist.

One of the reasons LG&E asked for the rate hike is due to expenses incurred during last year's ice storm. It would seem to me that any reasonable utility manager would have reserves on the books to partially cover expenses, which will inevitably occur from time to time. I would like to see their P&L over the last several years and determine for myself just how much of an impact the storm made.

Have any of the members of upper management at LG&E taken a pay cut to "help the cause"? I would bet not. It's much easier for them to put the squeeze on all of those who can ill afford an increase. They really don't care if you don't pay your utility bill, they will disconnect regardless of the weather or anything else.

I certainly believe that there are legitimate reasons for increases in utility rates but there is also a proper time for initiating those rates. In the midst of a deep recession is **not** one of those times.

I urge you and the Commission to take a hard stand on this issue and oppose any rate increase until there are visible signs that there has been a marked improvement in our economy and the general welfare of the citizenry.

I appreciate the opportunity to present my point of view.

Sincerely,



J. R. Dietrich  
PO Box 859  
Pewee Valley, KY 40056

cc: Commissioner Charles R. Borders